Moving the Needle:

Effective Collaborative Program & Outreach Efforts











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Effective Collaborative Program & Outreach Efforts



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Are you currently leveraging a benchmarking process to understand employee retirement participant behaviors?

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Our Mission

To facilitate and help City of Milwaukee employees save assets adequate and appropriate to enable them to retire at the desired time, to retire with dignity, and to enjoy sufficient income throughout retirement via a tax deferred savings plan under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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Are you currently measuring disparity gaps in your retirement plan?

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Together we fight for everyone's opportunity for a better financial future

We conducted research to understand how employees from different communities manage finances and save for retirement.

How

Analyzed retirement plan participant data from 6 plan sponsor clients across different industries, including the public sector

Who

163,000+ employees from 4 employee communities

Black/African American | Hispanic/Latino | Asian | White

What

Research focused on 3 key areas

Plan health | Engagement | Financial wellness

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Retirement plan auto features can help close gaps

Automatic enrollment helps more people save, reducing gaps among employee populations and leading to benefits equity.

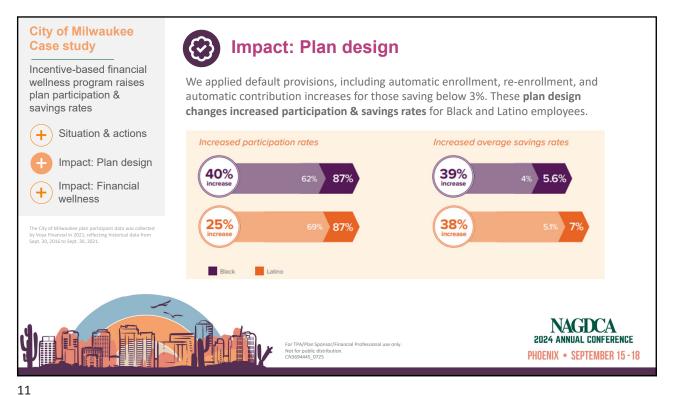
Participation rate: % of employees actively contributing

92% 90% 87% 88%

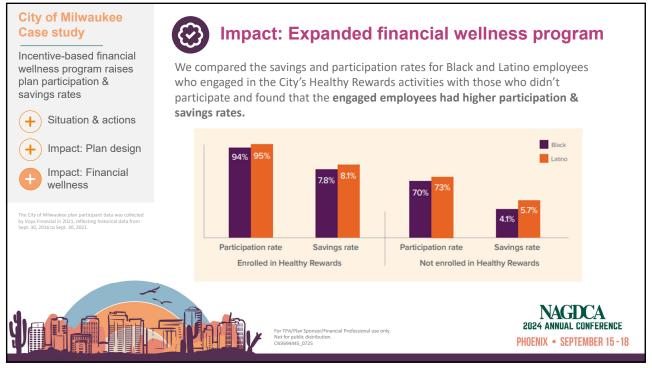
Non-auto enroll plans

**June of Voya Internat data. Voya DEI Andyras. as of 6/30/2022.

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1 Optimize plan design to improve benefits equity & outcomes for all:



- ✓ Auto enrollment
- √ Re-enrollment
- ✓ Auto escalation
- √ Match optimization



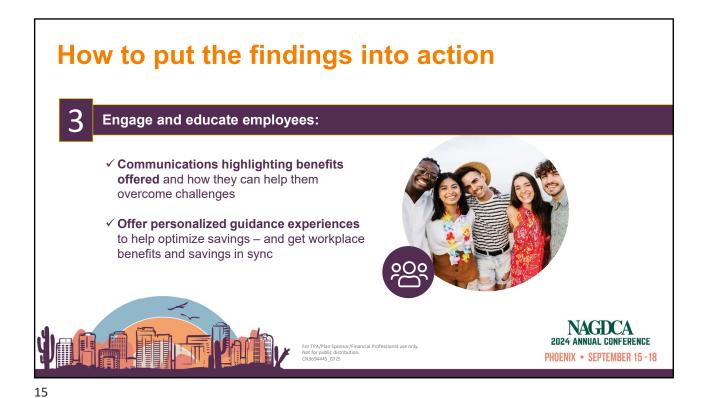
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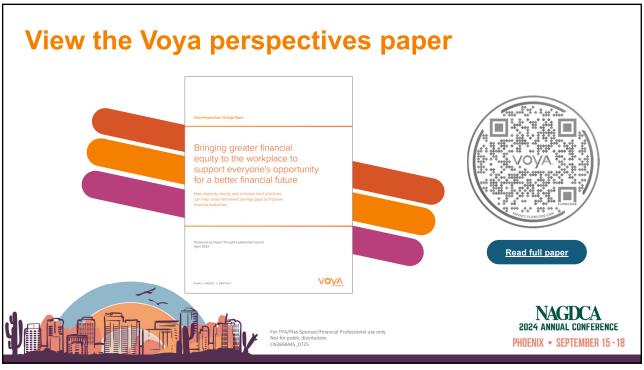
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Do you currently have a financial wellness program connected to your retirement plan?

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City of Milwaukee Financial Wellness Program

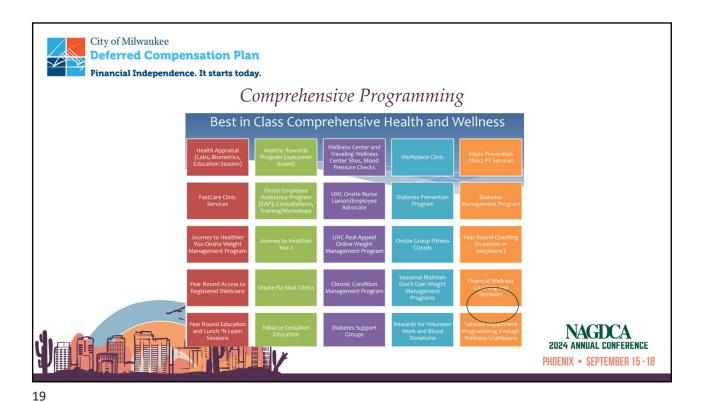


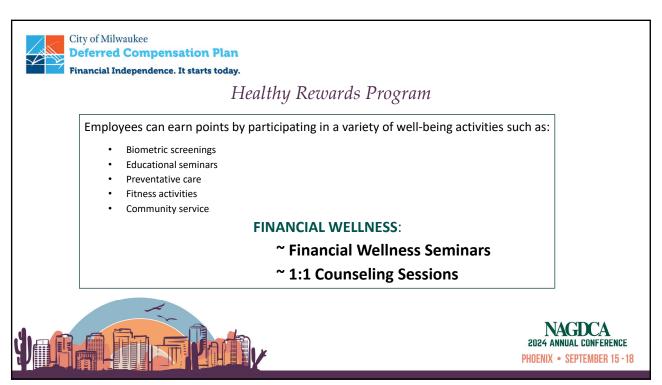


Incentive-based wellness program where participants can earn three levels of points to earn towards a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), up to \$700.

















Analysis

While automatic enrollment for new hires and the annual re-enrollment program has contributed to the Plan having overall participation rates in the high 80s, the City wanted to determine if there are pockets of employees who could benefit from additional information or a more high-touch approach, and if additional outreach was needed.

What resulted was a Pilot Program launched within our Fire Department, focused on Fire Cadets and Recruits.



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2023 Milwaukee Fire Department Outreach

Collaboration amongst employee board trustees, plan administration, employee departments and the recordkeeper to effectively reach, educate and connect with employees and participants, positively impact participation and contribution rates, and increase plan and benefit awareness while enhancing financial wellness and literacy.





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Approach

- Specialized New Employee Orientation sessions
- Monthly financial wellness presentations and consultation opportunities with Cadets.
- One-on-one consultations via Zoom or in person.
- In-person and online Financial Wellness Seminars
- Calls to new hires to ensure they understand the Plan and its benefits.
- Father/Son MFD testimonial video highlighting the benefits of the Plan
- Assessment of data analytics to evaluate and benchmark enrollment trends, and participation and contribution rates.



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Results

MFD Sworn Class of 2023 Results

- MFD New Employee Orientation sessions
- 37 Enrollment forms collected includes sworn employees not subject to auto enrollment
- 93% Participation in the Deferred Compensation Plan
- 9% Average deferral rate

MFD Cadet Class of 2023

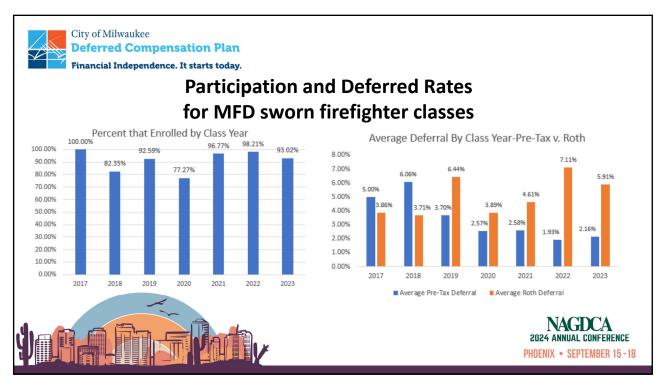
- 100% (48 of 48) enrolled in the Plan
- 5.7% Average pretax deferral rate; 11.2% average Roth deferral rate



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Takeaways

- Mission statement → define your WHO and WHY
- Look under the hood → analyze and understand potential gaps
- Identify and work with stakeholders → collaborate and engage
- Consider power tools for plan design → auto enrollment; re-enrollment
- Creativity and Best Practices → think outside the box, but don't reinvent the wheel
- Personalize outreach and communication → meet participants where they're at
- Benchmark → measure and compare to look for trends and finetune approach



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